



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 12, 2004

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This is in response to your November 6, 2003, letter to the Attorney General in which you and other members of the Committee on the Judiciary express concern regarding the Civil Rights Division's responsibility to enforce the recently enacted Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. We are sending a similar response to the other five members who signed the letter and apologize for any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

As you know, the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division enforces federal criminal civil rights statutes that protect individual rights and liberties, including deprivations of civil rights under color of law, forcible interference with federally protected activities, and rape, color, religion and national origin, access to reproductive health care, and involuntary servitude and human trafficking. Please be assured that the pursuit of violations of the federal civil rights laws will continue to be a priority of the Department of Justice.

Thank you for advising us of your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department if we can be of assistance in other matters.

Sincerely,

William E. Moschella  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary